

CALIFORNIA'S LOCAL JUVENILE FACILITIES CAN ABSORB THE STATE YOUTH CORRECTIONAL POPULATION



Maureen Washburn, Policy Analyst
Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice

April 2018

Fact Sheet

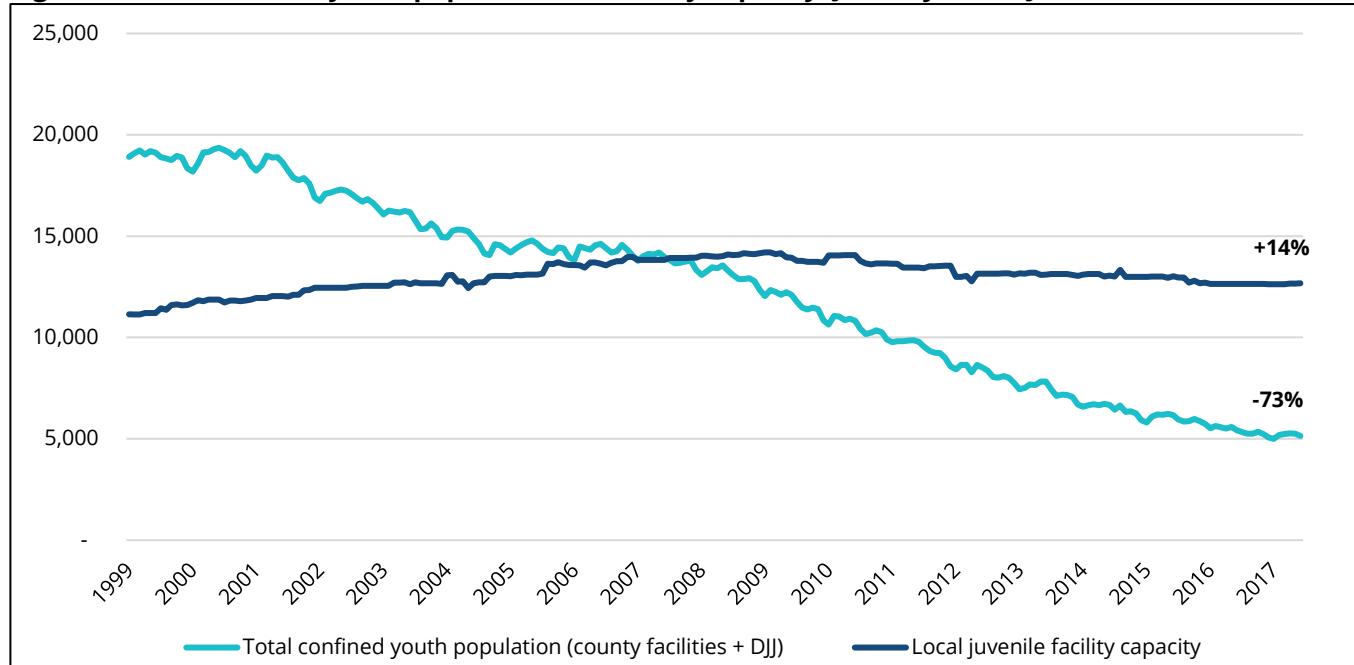
California maintains two sets of secure juvenile facilities: a state-run youth correctional system, the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), and 112 juvenile halls, camps, and ranches operated by county probation departments. Despite sustained declines in serious juvenile arrests and a reduction in commitments to the state, DJJ has not closed a facility since 2011 and continues to operate a fire camp and three large institutions at an annual cost of nearly \$200 million (CDCR, 2018; CJCJ, 2018). Declines in DJJ's population and unprecedented capacity in county juvenile facilities would allow for the phased realignment of confined youth from the aging state system to more modern local facilities, generating savings, bringing high-needs young people closer to home, and curbing the trauma and violence endemic to DJJ (CJCJ, 2012; 2016).

- Local facility capacity has increased despite historic declines in California's confined population.**

Since 1999, juvenile felony arrests have declined by 71 percent and the population of confined youth in county- or state-run juvenile facilities has fallen by 73 percent, yet the capacity of California's county juvenile justice facilities has grown by 14 percent (BSCC, 2018; CDCR 2018a; 2018b; DOJ, 2018) (Figure 2).

With the goal of providing local rehabilitation for high-needs youth who might otherwise be placed at DJJ, the state has invested \$300 million in the construction and renovation of county juvenile facilities and, each year, counties receive hundreds of millions of dollars in state grant funding for the development of alternatives to DJJ confinement (AB 1628, 2010; BSCC, 2018a; SB 81, 2007). Despite these investments, counties continue to commit hundreds of youth to DJJ, while operating local facilities at just 35 percent of their design capacity (BSCC, 2018).

Figure 1: Total confined youth population vs. county capacity, January 1999 - June 2017

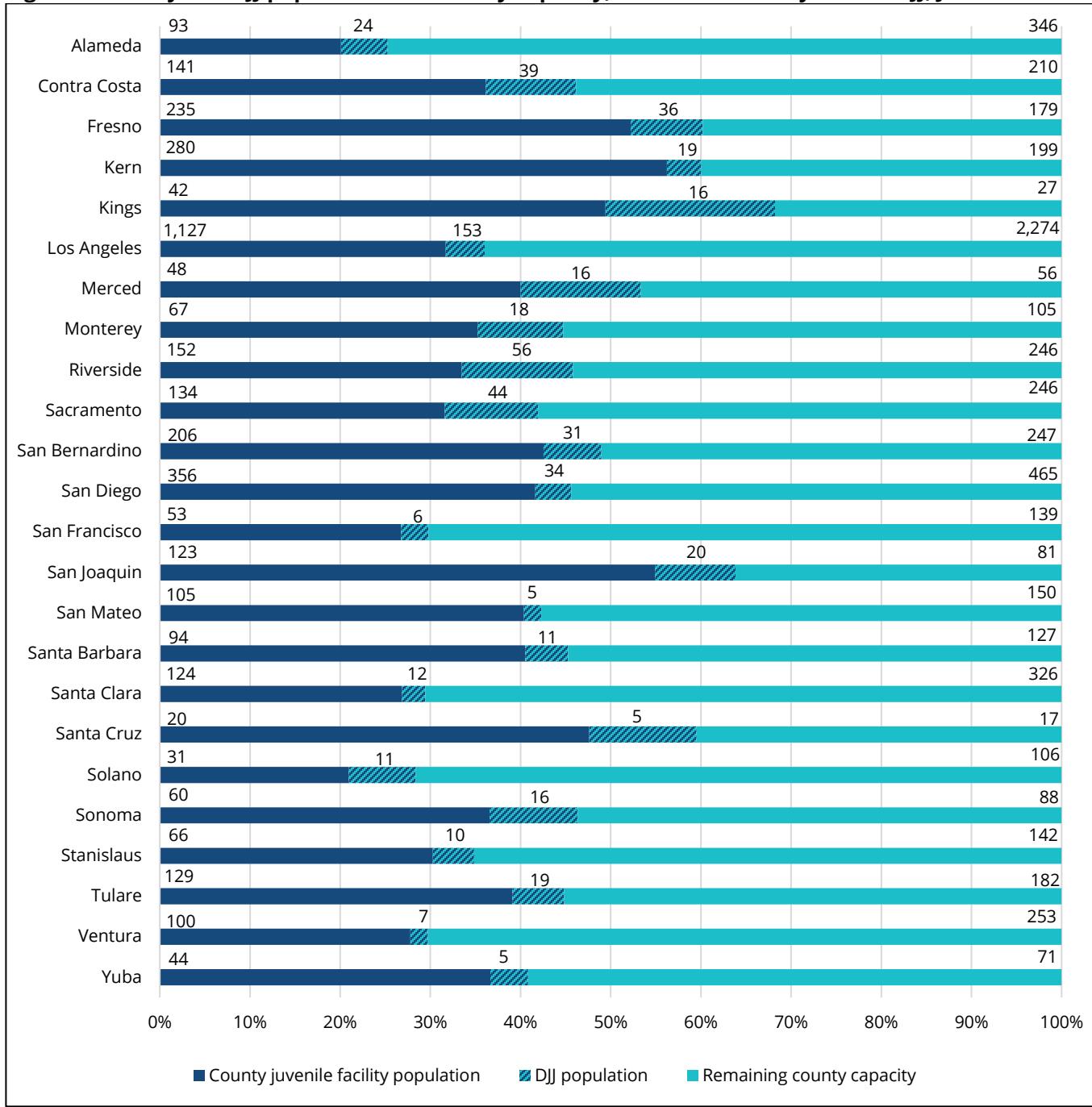


Sources: BSCC, 2018; CDCR, 2018a; 2018b. Notes: The Board of State and Community Corrections reports monthly juvenile facility statistics beginning in 1999. Monthly average daily populations for DJJ are not consistently available prior to October 2004; for January 1999 through September 2004, end-of-month population reports are substituted for monthly average daily population.

- County facilities are operating well under capacity and could accommodate the population of DJJ.**

Since July 2007, local juvenile facilities have maintained sufficient bed capacity to accommodate all confined youth in California, including those held at DJJ (Figure 1). Today, the 8,200 available beds in county-run juvenile facilities could absorb more than 13 times the population of DJJ. Despite variations in county reliance on DJJ, nearly every California county can accommodate a return of its DJJ youth to local juvenile halls, camps, or ranches (Figure 2) (see appendix).¹

Figure 2: County and DJJ populations vs. county capacity, counties with ≥5 youth at DJJ, June 2017



Sources: BSCC, 2018; CDCR, 2018c.

¹ Calaveras, Lake, and Sutter counties, which do not operate local juvenile facilities, each had one youth at the DJJ facilities in June 2017.

- **A phased realignment of youth to county facilities would reduce the size of DJJ.**

Under current law, youth can remain in a county juvenile facility until age 21 if the facility has received a waiver from the Board of State and Community Corrections (WIC § 208.5). As of June 2017, 77 percent of youth at DJJ were under the age of 21 and committed to the facilities by a juvenile court (CDCR, 2018c).

If youth who are under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court were diverted to county-run camps, ranches, or juvenile halls, the population of DJJ would decline rapidly, providing an opportunity for the closure of one or more of its facilities. In 2016 alone, juvenile courts committed approximately 200 youth to the state system—a population that is equivalent to the size of one of DJJ’s three large facilities: O.H. Close Youth Correctional Facility (176 youth), N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility (239 youth), or Ventura Youth Correctional Facility (172 youth) (CDCR, 2017a, CDCR, 2018b). To achieve sizeable population reductions at DJJ, the state could shift the financial incentives for retaining youth locally by increasing the fee counties pay for youth committed to DJJ facilities or by compensating counties for developing alternatives to the state system (CJCJ, 2012a; 2018).²

DJJ’s large, congregate institutions are out of step with best practices and reliant on an outdated correctional model that undermines the effectiveness of rehabilitation (CJCJ, 2016). For high-needs youth, county-run facilities are preferable to the state system because they offer smaller settings and proximity to the community, which eases a young person’s transition home. By placing additional limits on new commitments, California could substantially reduce the size of its state system, generating savings and lessening the significant human cost of large-scale institutional confinement.

References

- Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). (2018). Juvenile Detention Profile Survey: Monthly. At: http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_fsojuveniledetentionprofile.php.
- Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). (2018a). JJCPA-YOBG Programs. At: http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_jjcpayobgjuvjuscrimeprevact.php.
- California Assembly Bill 1628 (AB 1628). (2010). At: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=200920100AB1628.
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). (2017). Prison Rape Elimination Act: Annual Reports and Audits. At: https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Juvenile_Justice/PREA/Reports-Audits.html.
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). (2017a). First Commitment Rate Reports: 2016 At: http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Reports_Research/docs/research/first_committment_rate_reports/COMM RATE2016_Created_02092017.pdf.
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). (2018). History of the Division of Juvenile Justice. At: http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Juvenile_Justice/DJJ_History/index.html.
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). (2018a). Facility Population – Monthly Population Report: January 1999-September 2004. At: http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Juvenile_Justice/Research_and_Statistics/Archive.html.

² Counties are required to compensate the state for each youth committed DJJ by a juvenile court at a rate of \$24,000 per year (SB 1021, 2012).

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). (2018b). Average Daily Population – Monthly October 2004-June 2017. At: http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Juvenile_Justice/Research_and_Statistics/Archive.html; http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Juvenile_Justice/Research_and_Statistics/index.html.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). (2018c). Characteristics of the Division of Juvenile Justice Population: June 2017. At:
http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Reports_Research/docs/research/Characteristics/06_2017_Characteristics_Report.pdf.

California Senate Bill 81 (SB 81). (2007). At:
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=200720080SB81.

California Senate Bill 1021 (SB 1021). (2012). At:
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201120120SB1021.

California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 208.5. At:
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=208.5.&lawCode=WIC.

Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ). (2009). Closing California's Division of Juvenile Facilities: An Analysis of County Institutional Capacity. At:
http://www.cjcj.org/uploads/cjcj/documents/closing_californias_djf_2009.pdf.

Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ). (2012). Counties' Modern Secure Facilities Have Enough Institutional Capacity for Juvenile Justice Realignment. At:
http://www.cjcj.org/uploads/cjcj/documents/County_Modern_Facilities_2012.pdf.

Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ). (2012a). Juvenile Justice Realignment in 2012. At:
http://www.cjcj.org/uploads/cjcj/documents/Juvenile_Justice_Realignment_2012.pdf.

Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ). (2016). Failure After Farrell: Violence and Inadequate Mental Health Care in California's Division of Juvenile Justice. At:
http://www.cjcj.org/uploads/cjcj/documents/failure_after_farrell_djj.pdf.

Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ). (2018). Costs Rise amid Falling Populations at California's Division of Juvenile Justice. At:
http://www.cjcj.org/uploads/cjcj/documents/costs_rise_amid_falling_populations_at_californias_division_of_juvenile_justice.pdf.

Appendix

Available county juvenile facility capacity vs. DJJ population, June 2017

County	County juvenile facility population	County juvenile facility capacity	Available county capacity	DJJ Population
Alameda	93	463	370	24
Alpine	-	-	-	-
Amador	-	-	-	-
Butte	29	120	91	-
Calaveras	-	-	-	1
Colusa	-	-	-	-
Contra Costa	141	390	249	39
Del Norte	15	62	47	-
El Dorado	34	80	46	1
County	County juvenile facility population	County juvenile facility capacity	Available county capacity	DJJ Population

County	County juvenile facility population	County juvenile facility capacity	Available county capacity	DJJ Population
Fresno	235	450	215	36
Glenn	7	22	15	-
Humboldt	18	44	26	1
Imperial	15	72	57	-
Inyo	-	14	14	1
Kern	280	498	218	19
Kings	42	85	43	16
Lake	-	-	-	1
Lassen	2	40	38	-
Los Angeles	1,127	3,554	2,427	153
Madera	49	70	21	2
Marin	15	40	25	1
Mariposa	-	4	4	-
Mendocino	17	43	26	-
Merced	48	120	72	16
Modoc	-	-	-	-
Mono	-	-	-	-
Monterey	67	190	123	18
Napa	16	50	34	-
Nevada	10	60	50	1
Orange	280	743	463	4
Placer	25	78	53	1
Plumas	-	-	-	-
Riverside	152	454	302	56
Sacramento	134	424	290	44
San Benito	8	20	12	-
San Bernardino	206	484	278	31
San Diego	356	855	499	34
San Francisco	53	198	145	6
San Joaquin	123	224	101	20
San Luis Obispo	32	60	28	3
San Mateo	105	260	155	5
Santa Barbara	94	232	138	11
Santa Clara	124	462	338	12
Santa Cruz	20	42	22	5
Shasta	25	90	65	1
Sierra	-	-	-	-
Siskiyou	13	40	27	1
Solano	31	148	117	11
Sonoma	60	164	104	16
Stanislaus	66	218	152	10
Sutter	-	-	-	1
Tehama	12	60	48	1
Trinity	4	22	18	-

Tulare	129	330	201	19
Tuolumne	3	30	27	2
Ventura	100	360	260	7
Yolo	25	90	65	2
Yuba	44	120	76	5
State of California	4,484	12,679	8,195	638

Sources: BSCC, 2018; CDCR, 2018c.

Please note: Jurisdictions submit their data to the official statewide or national databases maintained by appointed governmental bodies. While every effort is made to review data for accuracy and to correct information upon revision, CJCJ cannot be responsible for data reporting errors made at the county, state, or national level.

Contact: For more information about this topic or to schedule an interview, please contact CJCJ Communications at (415) 400-5214 or cjcjmedia@cjcj.org.